

# Loudon/Knox County CAS Session

April 9, 2002

## ***1. What TVA related issues are of special concern to you?***

Clean water

Whitewater recreation, both above and below the dams.

Not power generation. TVA's original mission statement states other concerns like economic development. I do not like to see TVA charge money to release water into the Ocoee river for whitewater recreation. By holding events on the Ocoee river at the Olympic venue (which tax payers paid for) brings hundreds of thousands to the Copper Hill and Ducktown area. That water is a public good and it should be used in the best way to serve the public and not just TVA.

How TVA is going to meet the energy demands in the future?

Protection of the natural environment, including water quality, instream flows, ecological communities, & riparian land protection should be a primary concern for TVA. A watershed approach allows this protection to involve the local public and include economic and social issues. All other activities should be managed with this environmental protection as a given. Whitewater recreation is also a special concern of mine.

I am interested in what changes will be made (if any) in the shoreline management policy of TVA.

Assurance of many releases not requiring the payment for public water and recreation opportunities

Time of year when reservoirs are filled and emptied.

Number of days water is run on upper and lower Ocoee.

Cost to outfitters for water -- shouldn't be so much that they have to charge too much to patrons.

TVA should remember that recreation is one of its mandates. This should be particularly easy in the case of Ocoee water because money is generated by commercial rafting companies which then pay local taxes, and also money is spent in the area by visitors which helps local economies.

Work concerning the Chickamauga (?) lock

Electric cost and navigation

Air pollution, water quality, green power, debt, accountability

I have a dam, a big dam.

Did Enron and Ken Lay intimidate Craven Crowell to resign?

Hydroelectric power is the cleanest way that we can produce electricity.

Pollution

Whitewater canoeing, fishing, provide enough water especially on weekends

Water quality and public lands

I am interested in how the operations of TVA dams (as a whole) can operate most effectively for the protection of instream flows as it relates to the diversity of species.

I am interested in TVA's accountability to the people of the TN Valley and ratepayers with regards to its operations. Because TVA is not subject to Federal Power Act and therefore the jurisdiction of the FERC, it is not obligated to meet the same responsibilities as other dam operators. TVA should consider making the same trade-offs with regards to their dam operations as other FERC regulated entities.

I am very interested in TVA's responsibility to protect those parts of the Tennessee Valley watershed that are not impounded. TVA has an obligation to protect the integrity (biological, instream, etc.) of these areas because they essentially destroyed the preexisting natural environment.

Recreation and land management. Since TVA lost its appropriations, it appears that less emphasis is on natural resource mgt. and recreation.

The Tennessee River and the navigation of the waterway system.

Recreation downstream of Apalachia Dam and the maintenance and improvement of the coldwater fishery in the tailwater below Apalachia Dam. A regular, predictable release schedule needs to be established for this section of river to allow businesses to operate with a certain degree of certainty.

Water quality, environmental protection, industrial development fish and wildlife, land use planning and management, industrial and agricultural diversity -- Although flood control is crucial, it is too easy to see it as a residential/subdivision encouragement, which is a distortion.

Coldwater releases and the impacts they have on tailwater trout fisheries

Lake levels

I would like to see less development on the lands surrounding the river. TVA does a good job of managing the river system and should continue to do so. I am concerned that it may be transferred to the Corp.

Water levels in the Hiwassee river.

Water supply, balance between renewable energy production (hydro) and environmental quality (riverine habitats, air quality, water quality).

I live here, I want my children to continue to live here. I work as a raft guide on the Ocoee but I am by no means a tree hugging NIMBite. I like what the TVA has done for the area and am only one generation removed from the people who remember what it was like before the TVA came. Power generation is very important I like having electric light and have worked at TVA dams, fossil plant and nuclear plants. I live close enough to the big Tennessee so that flood control is also important to me. Recreations is also important to me my son and I both spend a large amount of time involved in Whitewater activities

Flood control.

Recreation areas and management of those areas Policy on long-term or permanent land leases with local governments to manage particular recreation areas.

Downstream recreation, downstream water flow, cost of that water.

Primary issue is the downstream recreational use of the rivers, mainly for whitewater kayaking, Upper and Middle Ocoee, Hiwassee and Upper Hiwassee.

Water quality and its impact on the fisheries.

The rivers and the waters in them belong to the people of the state of TN and NOT to TVA.

Generation of electricity is only one of the ways TVA can influence the economic health of the TN River Valley.

Downstream water releases on a scheduled basis on the Hiwassee River below the Appalachia Lake

Free water releases on the Ocoee River  
TVA should be licensed by FERC

The excessive bonuses paid to management.

The timing / necessity of the annual drawdowns.

Pollution caused by the use of fossil fuels.

The need to expand the use of nuclear energy to produce electricity.

Water quality in Fort Loudon (i.e. monitoring, reporting, best places to get data)

Management of Ocoee River and Hiwassee River. In particular: free releases on the Ocoee - all releases free and the re-watering of the Upper Hiwassee that has been dewatered since the construction of the Appalachia Dam.

The Upper Hiwassee releases would flow into the lower and should be coordinated with the lower releases. Guaranteed releases on the Hiwassee during from Friday through Sunday, and adequate releases to sustain the aquatic life. Currently, the aquatic life is suffering from only 1 generator running every 3 or so hours.

Lake level control

Protecting the environment and keeping public land in the public domain

Management of the river system; TVA's "traditional" role vs. public perception of that role

Integrated management of the river system to optimize the balance of flood control, power, land use, economic development, navigation, and recreation. Don't want to compromise the system-wide, valley-wide design that was made.

How to accomplish core missions without harming (or if possible, improving) the natural environment?

Flood control is of paramount importance to me.

Time of year water releases on the rivers that allow a fair and balance approach to all the utilities, community and recreational users.

1) I am concerned that the current TVA Board is focused on economic development regardless of public input and opinion as observed today at the Loudon High School on 4/9/02. The scores demonstrated on the screen indicated a strong desire to protect the environment. NOT ONCE DID ANYONE SPEAK OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. In contrast, the interest of the Board seems to include economic development.

I desire balance between economic development and environmental protection, such as, sustainable development.

2) Based on the recent events in Alabama, the golf course/retirement development consideration, I am extremely disappointed in TVA's Board. It appears as though the Board has forgotten or has chosen to ignore environmental considerations and the public input. Up until the Alabama Boondoggle, I respected and trusted TVA. The employees are very professional, skilled, knowledgeable

Why would the Board choose to support this public comment when they have not chosen to support public comment received from Alabama Boondoggle? (Did we not learn from Tellico?) I trust the people I've met from TVA, it's the Board that has lost my trust.

Flood control is of paramount importance to me.

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 43

## ***2. Why are these issues of special concern to you?***

Health

I am a white water enthusiast

I am a part time raft guide on the Ocoee and see first hand how much money this recreation brings into the area.

The quality of life in the region is very much tied to the protection of our natural resources. The aquatic diversity found in these waters is among the highest in the world and must be protected and restored. Our rivers and lakes define the beauty, culture, and history of our communities. The health of these resources is critical to the economies of local communities. Recreation is a major economic benefit to a number of communities. Water for this recreation should be provided without cost to the public.

Shoreline management affects my job and how we (USACE) work with TVA on reservoir issues.

Releases of water on the upper Ocoee which has been left dry after incredible investment and effort by many parties.

Because I like to paddle the rivers, but also because I am interested in the best environment possible for the people of the region. And best environment includes flowing rivers, which is good for scenic value, and healthy aquatic life.

Barge traffic and product supply to the Knoxville area.

Economic impact on our industry and the local economy. We utilize the river for inbound supplies and outbound sales.

Because TVA has a large environmental and social impact

I'd like to generate electricity and do other things with it (for the people around it). Maybe a eating establishment.

Where is the money coming from if no taxes are involved?

What is the purpose of having public input if the agency or governments in general rarely (if ever) uses it?

What does this have to do with the federal, international, and global clean water act? How does the federal clean water act affect the global act and how is it interconnected with TVA and does it control any of TVA's actions? Is this going to eventually erode our sovereignty in this country? It has been proposed by international think tanks that a softening of sovereignty would be to their advantage. What chance do we have in a situation like this if we are only one nation in 190?

I do these activities, it helps the economy

I enjoy fishing, swimming and boating

Because I am a resident of the Tennessee Valley.

TVA is more willing to give away public land bought with tax payers money for purposes which do not serve the general public. Residential use of public land is not appropriate. Ifd TVA does not commit to proper mgt. Of the natural resources and recreation opportunities around the system, theses resources will be lost for future generations.

The navigation of the Tennessee waterway system is vital to the economic growth of the Tennessee Valley.

I am a member of the Hiwassee Scenic River Stakeholders, and I am also a flyfisherwoman and whitewater paddler. I work for a business directly related to water releases on the Hiwassee River.

The long term quality of life in a region depends on popular inputs to development decisions, especially very broad based popular inputs, and my own experience tells me that informed input will lead to balanced and managed growth, with industrial and agricultural diversity. A common tragedy in various regions of the US is growth which is poorly managed by small groups of developers and entrepreneurs, leading to excessive residential developments with poor control of water supply and wastewater treatment. In addition, industrial development with no concern for environmental impacts has historically been a problem, even though it has sometimes been justifiable in regions of extreme poverty. The issues I identified above are my idea of how TVA can help provide improvements in the regional quality of life.

These tailwater trout fisheries are a valuable resource to the people. The coldwater releases also have a large impact on local economies.

Water levels at Douglas lake

Protection of the environment is important to me.

The Hiwassee is a cold water river. When the TVA restricts flow for in may/June for 3-4 hours the water temperature heats up dramatically and a good part of the streambed goes dry, jeopardizing both insect life and the trout.

In my professional capacity at ORNL, I manage DOE's Hydropower Program, where we are developing new technology for more environmentally compatible hydropower -- some of this technology comes from TVA and I would like to see more here in the Valley.

I also serve on TDEC's Water Supply Policy Panel were we are working to protect our State's water supplies -- this study should provide new, useful information for that agenda.

I live here.

I live near Ft. Loudon Dam. My basement is approximately 20 feet above full pool. I am concerned that many people do not realize the excellent job TVA has done with respect to flood control over the past 40+ years. Also, many people on tributary reservoirs are only concerned about their little piece rather than the "Total River System." I believe that managing the river system is a very complex job and that the original river system design must be a major consideration. I believe that TVA's River Scheduling Section has the expertise to know how to make the best decisions based on the best available data at the time. Since the weather frequently changes, some decisions may ultimately look bad but were made in good faith. I am concerned that sound flood control management could take a back seat to higher lake levels for strictly economic reasons. Then when large rains do arrive flooding and major economic losses will occur.

To help develop and maintain a high quality level of parks and recreation services across Tennessee

Cost of downstream water, with an accurate cost from TVA

Personal enjoyment, concern for the environment, advancement of the tourism in TN,

The lack of scheduled downstream water releases on the Hiwassee river is threatening the fishery aquatic environment above Reliance, Ten. and has decreased the commercial and recreational viability of whitewater rafting, canoeing, and kayaking

The high cost of water in the Upper and Middle sections of the Ocoee River has caused a decrease in the number of visits by recreational rafters, canoeist and kayakers. At the present the whitewater recreational industry is the largest industry in Polk County Ten. The loss of this industry would be devastating to the Copper Basin Area

1. The cost of electricity.
2. Everyone should be concerned about the levels of pollution in Tennessee & especially in Loudon County.
3. We desperately need alternatives to fossil fuels. Our reliance on petroleum fuels is ludicrous.

TVA is exempt from the FERC relicensing process because it is a governmental entity. This exemption has been taken advantage of unfairly and the TVA is ignoring the input of the public. If TVA were private, their actions to de-water rivers, hold the public hostage by charging fees, and causing environmental stress unnecessarily would not be accepted. In fact, several of these actions would be deemed illegal.

Spring fish spawn

New board of directors are economic development emphasis

Because of the importance of TVA to our region.

Don't want things out of balance. Can't compromise the overall good for a particular groups interest.

We own a small weekend cabin on Fort Loudon Lake. Over the past 40+ years we've witnessed rapid increases in lake silting, shoreline erosion/degradation, residential overdevelopment, recreational river traffic (especially personal watercraft/"jetskis"). I suppose we're loving our lakes to death. TVA has a tough job.

I am a Lake front property owner on Watt's Bar Lake

I represent a small group of recreational users that want to have more water released for kayak and canoe use. I want to make sure that all who benefit from such a natural climate system and landscape are represented to TVA. All voices need to be heard.

There can be sustainable development. I don't want to lose valuable nonreplaceable resources to strictly economic development. Bush's Board (or at least 66.66% of the Board) appears to be economic development at any cost.

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 39

### ***3. How could TVA improve its management of the TN River system?***

I believe that the lake levels could be kept higher longer to allow greater aesthetics and on lake recreation, the mud flats are ugly and have very few benefits

Make power generation its last concern. The only way that TVA can make money from the river is from power generation, this appears to be all they care about, not the overall public good. TVA does not own the entire river the public does. Private dams have a entirely different set of rules that they have to follow.

A greater emphasis on protecting and restoring aquatic ecosystems is needed. Greater recognition of the environmental costs and benefits should be included in decision-making processes. Economic benefits to local communities, such as from whitewater recreation, are of greater importance than profits to TVA from electricity generation.

Be more restrictive/selective about projects that are approved on TVA systems.

Allow a democratic approach and further flexibility of release schedules.

TVA could consider recreation as an important aspect of its mandate. Included in recreation is whitewater paddling and rafting, fishing, picnicking, playing in the water by kids (and adults), and tourists' pleasure.

Specifically, TVA could run scheduled water in the upper Ocoee so more people could paddle and raft, and relieve extreme crowding on the lower Ocoee. Much more of the cost could be borne by TVA rather than the raft companies.

Maximize the electric production while maintaining flood control.

Making sure that TVA protects the native biodiversity, remembers that there is a river there, and limits excessive development along the river.

TVA has done a pretty good job of water flow, but they made a mistake to borrow millions and millions of dollars for other projects. Does this affect our cost for water? They should not get involved in other projects, other than what is just essential.

By providing higher priority on water for whitewater navigation

Make protection of existing public lands a priority. There will not be any more.

That is difficult to answer until I know about the types of models that TVA chooses to evaluate its system. Specifically, TVA should look at hydrologic models that value environmental and instream flow benefits. The public should have some input on the types of models that are used. In addition, the public should have input on the type of technologies that are used to improve water quality such as dissolved oxygen.

Give greater emphasis to recreation and resource management issues. TVA is going to generate electricity, it's going to prevent floods, and its going to contribute to commercial navigation interests because it has to. TVA has a choice on the other issues and its current practices place low value on these other issues.

Admit the importance of downstream recreation, both culturally and economically, and recognize TVA's role in the promotion or restriction of this activity. Most importantly, a predictable release schedule needs to be developed for the Hiwassee River, and a drought management plan that is agreeable to all parties involved and that should allow water for release for downstream recreation even during drought years. Finally, the coldwater fishery on the Hiwassee Scenic River needs to be better cared for and enhanced. This could be attained through continuous, low-cfs water release or release of colder water.

The present increase in seeking of public input is a step in the right direction, but at present is totally inadequate. There should be public forums every few months on various management/growth/land use issues. Also, regular email polls and frequent contacts with organizations would help. Meanwhile, public dissemination of information on land use shifts in the region should be used to keep everyone informed. For example, residential development frequently raises flood risks, or at least risks of damage and injury. How are these risks shifting in the region? Next, plans for cleanup and revitalization of problem reservoirs must be undertaken, for example, the accumulation of polluted sediment from northeast Tennessee rivers is going to need attention, and possibly dredging. And by the way, TVA should keep away from theme park projects, especially when backed by convicted criminals. Increasing electrical generating capacity is going to need attention also. Flood control should remain high priority, but TVA should insist on matching of local job development with residential/subdivision development in order to avoid stress on local services, increased commuting, economic imbalances.

Better management of the water we have. Plan to have enough water to have cold water during the critical times of the year when thermal issues threaten our trout fisheries.

By taking a very concentrated look at when and why lake levels are dropped

TVA should attempt to again receive appropriated money from Congress for management of the river system.

By holding water back earlier in the year in the upstream dams so there is more of a reserve in the warm months.

It does a pretty good job already, but a continuing balancing in the face of changing public values should be done. One issue that needs to be addressed is the cumulative effects of population growth, potential climate change, and associated demands on resources. These should be included in the scenarios that are evaluated along with different alternatives.

When one considers water supply, cooling water for fossil and nuclear power generation, hydro generation, flood control, navigation and water quality, I don't see how a better job can be done. The integrated river system works!!

More technical assistance staff working with local governments on alternative management options.



Consider the option of land disposal to local governments if the circumstances are appropriate - rather than a long-term lease.

TVA should be under FERC guidelines

Reduce shoreline development and wetlands destruction.

Reduce the emissions from coal fired generation plants to comply with all state and federal laws and regulations.

Improve the environment rather than be a destructive member of the community

By recognizing the importance of the economic impact of downstream recreation on the Hiwassee and Ocoee Rivers on the citizens of Polk county and the Copper Basin area. We should have scheduled downstream releases on the Hiwassee River and free water releases on the Middle and Upper Ocoee Rivers

By soliciting more input from the residents who are affected and act positively on the input. Many citizens are reluctant to provide their opinions because they do not feel that TVA is really interested.

TVA could improve its management of the TN River System by conducting itself as if it did have to comply with FERC. Also by adopting an alternative very similar to Alternative 5 in the USFS/TVA 1197 EIS titled "Upper Ocoee Corridor Recreational Development". Multiple studies have already been conducted. TVA should not recreate the wheel with the RSO study, but should draw upon and utilize the numerous previous studies done, including:

USFS/TVA 1997 EIS, "Upper Ocoee River Corridor Recreational Development" - to be utilized as a guidance document for the section of the ROS that deals with the Upper Ocoee River. Also the guidance developed in the ROS process regarding the Ocoee should be carried over and applied to 2014 when the Middle Ocoee will be up for review again.

The economic impact on the communities surrounding the Ocoee and Hiwassee are paramount and TVA must take that into consideration. Management of these two rivers can be improved by adopting water flow policies that enhance the economic benefit to these communities, if the economics of river recreation exceed the monetary benefits to TVA of generating electricity.

Consider erosion control on TVA owned lands

TVA is doing a great job managing the whole river system. Improvement opportunities include more bank stabilization, improved water quality, less development on the reservoirs. TVA needs to continue to prioritize environmental issues and balancing demands.

These meetings are a good start. Public input is good. More of the day to day operation of the River System should be explained so that the general public understands the complexity of running the system. Maybe fewer people would complain, if they understood all of the issues that affect lake levels, power concerns, and flood control.

Get the political backing to say no to special interest requests that compromise system balance and integration.

Increase funding for resource management functions, through congressional funding -- just like those functions are federally funded elsewhere in the U.S.

It appears to me that TVA overemphasizes flood control. I realize this is a core mission, but it seems TVA is overly cautious and overcompensates. If not, they need to do a better job of communicating its control strategy better--in terms the average person can understand.

TVA could also do a better job of communicating planned fluctuations in lake levels. I've noticed the Web site has taken steps in that direction, which is good. Need to find other ways, perhaps a recorded info-line?

Folks who own lakefront properties need to have a better idea of changing conditions.

TVA should fully recognize and adjust to the changing expectations of the public. For example, we once looked to TVA as a stimulus for economic development (in my view, the sole driver for the Tellico Dam completion). Now we expect TVA to help preserve, and if possible restore, the natural environment.

This one may be off base, but it seems little research is being done to increase the efficiencies/production capacities of hydropower over the years. It remains such a small percentage compared with fossil fuel. We need to decrease dependence on coal, and increase hydro, wind, solar, and, yes, nuclear, because the biggest threat to our environment is air pollution from TVA's coal-fired steam plants.

I think the public sessions provide a lot of good input, provided TVA utilizes it.

To continue with these type of studies.

To remember that the rivers provide a much needed outlet and enjoyment for the paddling community.

TVA is impressive with the flood control as it is probably much more complex than any of us can imagine.

Can TVA expand its ability or control of water quality? I've seen numerous sediment plumes flowing from creeks into the Clinch and Tennessee Rivers. There is generally some type of clearing upstream producing sediment/mud filled streams and creeks with feed into the TVA River System.

From my limited knowledge TVA does a great job at managing the river system.

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 35

#### ***4. What alternatives should TVA consider in managing the TN River system?***

Not sure

Public input is great, but maybe a less integrated approach to management is needed, i.e., the concerns for dams on the lower river are different from those at the top of the system. possibly a more case by case approach for such things as recreation and water supply is needed.

To be held under the same laws and regulations that private dams have. Not as the sole dictators of the entire river system.

Greater emphasis on managing river flows to protect and enhance natural processes. Less emphasis on power generation and commercial navigation. TVA should provide flows for whitewater recreation without cost to the public.

Cleaner water alternatives, more environmentally sound alternatives.

Use other types of green power. Allow rivers to run seasonally without reservoir aesthetics to dictate levels.

Consider the alternative of charging much less for water, and running it through both upper and lower Ocoee

Update priorities and manage accordingly

Look at alternatives that increase water quality, biodiversity

I think that TVA is doing a good job if they just concentrate on the job at hand, not sideline projects.

All alternatives should be considered including ones that are not economically beneficial to TVA.

TVA should identify the critical issues which it has to address, and then choose how it will focus on balancing the other issues which don't get a high enough priority.

Make sure that recreation below dams (i.e., whitewater recreation and trout fisheries) is considered in water budgeting decisions. Specifically for my area, the lake curves need to be altered to allow for earlier lake filling. This would maintain lake levels for lakefront property owners and would allow water to move through the system during the summer making recreational releases on the Hiwassee possible.

The big alternative choice is residential versus industrial development and land use. As a regional agency, TVA should be informing state and local governments on how their residential and jobs growth are trending, and how these trends are likely to impact on water quality, recreation, and runoff/flood risk. TVA is also facing a choice on commercial navigation as an expensive alternative. Here, TVA should identify industrial locations and alternatives which could take advantage of water transportation. Minimum release amounts of 200 cfs should be raised during the hot months, they in turn could be held back during winter months when the water is naturally cold and oxygen rich.

When power needs can be used and flood control is really necessary

Protecting the environment is most important. Controlling development on shorelines is also important. Flood Control and generating cheap electricity are also priorities.

Try to do more to improve water quality.

Impact of recreation on the local economy

With the number river miles lost to the lakes of the TN River, scheduled releases on the whitewater reaches of ALL rivers with the impact on tourism should have higher priority.

These releases should be without charge of any kind, again because the water and the rivers belongs to the people of TN not TVA.

TVA should adhere to FERC licensing

I'm not sure what you are asking with this question.

TVA could utilize the data collected by other agencies in determining the water quality in the reservoirs. Riverpulse was a popular publication, but I understand that it is no longer available.

The re-watering of the Upper Hiwassee.

Placing notice on TVA's lake & river page as to when releases on the Upper Ocoee and both the Upper and Middle Hiwassee occur. This winter TVA worked on Dam 3 and from November 2001 through January 2002, the Upper Ocoee was running on many occasions. Contact was made with TVA, directly to the people who had the power to notify the public that these releases were occurring. Their response was, "we already notify the public as to summer releases. We are NOT required to notify the public as to these repair releases and will not".

This is a prime example of TVA losing the goodwill of the users of the rivers and lakes.

Another alternative for TVA to consider: economic impact. How much money does TVA make generating power on the Ocoee with dam #2 & #3. How much money does TVA lose when these dams are not generating power DUE TO whitewater releases? How much money do the surrounding communities make.

How does this compare? When the economic benefit to the community exceeds the monetary intake to TVA, the community should receive the water.

Fundamental thought process/ concept change for TVA - TVA does NOT own the water. Some employees of TVA have been rather adamant in their perception that Congress gave TVA the water and that TVA can do whatever they want with it. Congress did not GIVE the water to TVA and legally TVA does NOT own it.

- 1) No action
- 2) Delay in draw downs without jeopardizing water quality
- 3) Improved flows to maximize supporting aquatic life and habitat.
- 4) Consider longer summer levels in the upper reservoirs

Consider another pumped storage facility.

Since I believe TVA overemphasizes flood control and since the smaller dams add little or nothing to the power grid, consider allowing more natural flows on the tributary rivers. Particularly in those areas that contribute so much recreationally, (e.g. Ocoee.)

To allow the local community to vote for a safe percentage of water releases for recreational use.

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 32

## ***5. What quality of life issues need to be addressed in your area or town?***

Low lakes.

Pollution. Yes we have cheaper electricity than most of the country, but I am willing to pay more for electricity to have cleaner air.

The importance of healthy streams for developing sustainable communities - natural resource protection, recreation, tourism, water supply.

Sedimentation levels in Fort Loudon Lake and chemical contamination levels in Watts Bar Lake.

AIR Quality is poor. Coal must go due to alternative sources.

A major quality of life issue for me is free access to flowing rivers for everyone.

A second area is air pollution. Coal fired steam plants need the latest scrubbers.

Highway traffic if the river can not be used for commerce

None

Water quality is the most important, air quality, protecting our national parks, using energy efficiently

Less taxes, better things for our kids, improve the quality of life

Water and air quality

Better planning, recreational opportunities

Scenic views, how the public values clean water, flowing water, recreation, and other environmental benefits that are typically evaluated in non-monetary terms

TVA needs to do more to enhance the quality of life values, i.e. recreation, natural resource management. Management is quick to say that these issues mean a lot, but reluctant to spend money to improve the issues. Everything that TVA deals with on its reservoirs which is not electrical, flood, or navigation-related, deals with recreation and land management. TVA only provides lip service to these items.

By utilizing the navigation of the TN waterways system, traffic is reduced on the highways making traveling by road somewhat safer.

The main economic driving force in Polk County, Tennessee, is whitewater recreation. Without it, the county would be even more economically depressed than it already is. The impact of restricting whitewater releases on rivers in Polk County should be considered from the point of view of the lives it will affect besides those directly employed by river outfitters.

Local flood control resulting from excess residential development; Air pollution resulting from growth in commuting to nonlocal jobs Stormwater runoff problems from excess parking lots Noise pollution from truck traffic, poorly routed for access to industries; Dust and smoke from construction Large scale elimination of forests and rural land and pasture; Largely unmanaged development of subdivisions

The watersheds provide a large amount of recreational opportunities as well as a big amount of money to local businesses.

There is too much development on Loudon Lake. I am also concerned about water supply. This is becoming a major issue as surrounding areas, such as Atlanta encounter water shortages. TVA Should work with the States to pass legislation to protect this valuable resource.

Clean water and adequate flow in streams relating to sport fishing.

Doing what is necessary to provide flood control. Trying to improve water quality and aquatic life in the river system.

Cleaner water for recreation activities Environmental benefits of water-based recreation

Economic impact TVA could have on the local economy through downstream recreation

While my home is outside the TN Valley, the quality of life is impacted by the generation of electricity, TVA needs to reduce the emissions from the coal fired generation plants to comply with all state and federal regulations.

The tourism generated by the lakes and rivers of the TN River is a major boost to the economy of TN.

The Ocoee River and the events there, bring paddlers from all the surrounding states and even nation wide on a weekly basis.

This question has already been addressed in question # 1. Pollution is a major problem here in Loudon County and no one really seems to care. The extremely high incidence of respiratory illnesses in both children and adults speaks for itself. Also, Loudon County seems to have more than our share of cancer patients.

Hiwassee - low & intermittent release levels are negatively impacting the aquatic life.

Upper Hiwassee - the river has been dewatered since the dam was constructed, an unnatural and undesirable situation.

Coal plants - TVA's coal plants have been grandfathered in under former EPA regulations; additionally, the fact that TVA is a governmental entity has allowed it to avoid current EPA requirements. The emissions from the coal plants are literally killing the plants in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, Pisgah National Forest, Cherokee National Forest, etc. The impact of this is the degrading of water quality through run-off, poor air quality in the SE, and so on. TVA must comply with current EPA standards as opposed to grandfathered clauses.

The Tennessee River needs improvements from its tributaries. The pollution levels of the city streams is of concern to water quality.

Water quality. Reducing pollution inflows to water bodies, especially non-point source.

Rapid, unplanned growth; sprawl.

Litter/dumping.

Air and water quality.

Public education improvement.

Our area is undergoing rapid expansion which will put increased demands on the various areas managed by TVA. Responding to these demands will be key.

Air quality is extremely poor.

Waste/Trash discarded on many highways, county parks, lakes, and rivers.

Loss of plant and animal habitat.

Loss of solitude and tranquility.

Interstate trash flowing down creeks and into the Clinch River and Tennessee River.

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 32

## **6. What do you value most about the TN River system and TVA reservoirs?**

Keep the waters clean

Flood control and down stream recreation.

The environment. By keeping water in the rivers we can allow the environment to heal.

The beauty of our rivers and streams the amazing diversity of biological communities that are sustained by them.

TVA provides good opportunity for recreation and affordable electricity.

Opportunities to get away from planes trains automobiles. A true wilderness experience is getting harder to find. I value the view, air, water.

Flood control, I suppose. And supplying dependable water for commercial barges, recreational boaters, and uncluttered lake shores (not many of these, alas!). Beauty is an important quality of life for me, and I believe for the region and state.

Jobs

Flow control, electric production, and navigation.

Biodiversity, river health, water quality

That it is there for everybody in our state, not just one. That they keep producing electricity as cheaply and economically as possible.

Recreation and scenic aspects

Undeveloped areas, public lands, water quality

I value our beautiful rivers that have NOT been dammed

The natural resources, the vast array of recreation opportunities created, and the ensuing quality of life benefits which result from having them.

Controlled water levels

Downstream recreation and the coldwater fisheries TVA created

1. Scenic views and esthetic quality
2. Control of floods
3. Industrial jobs
4. Electric power
5. Picnic grounds and parks

The trout fisheries and recreational opportunities they provide.

East Tennessee is a beautiful place to live. The Tennessee River greatly adds to the natural beauty of the area. Managing the shorelines is critical to overall natural beauty of the area.

Flood control is very well managed.

Power, flood control, recreation.

Flood control.

The recreation benefits that it gives to the community. I also value its beauty and diversity

Water release for downstream recreation

Scheduled whitewater release, water quality, wildlife habit, environmental protection.

Consistent downstream scheduled releases for whitewater recreation and fisheries.

I enjoy fishing the area lakes, boating, picnics and the aesthetic elements of the area. I / we also appreciate the reasonable rates for electric power. The power rates could probably be more reasonable if TVA didn't spend do much money on management bonuses.

TN river system is extremely accessible, and is managed well

The environmental sanctuaries, recreational opportunities and quality of life aspects that TVA has brought to this area and can expand upon. It is unfortunate, but TVA seems to have decreased it's focus on these issues in the past 4 years, since Congress reduced its funding. The justification has been lack of affordability now. However, private entities still comply, thus this in an unacceptable excuse. TVA as the largest river system reservoir management entity in the U.S. has the ability to make further huge, positive impacts on this region, and we all look forward to TVA doing so.

The water quality and protection of the environment

The beauty of the river system, and the economic impact it has on the entire region of the country.

Abundant water supply, recreation, visual beauty of natural areas (undeveloped), low cost power, non-polluting power, navigation that reduces the number of trucks on the road and thus the air pollution.

Aesthetic beauty, water resources/supply, recreational opportunity.

Flood control and recreation

Recreational and competition Paddling

Environmental protection

Flood control

Recreation

There's no place I'd rather be than on the TN River System.ahhhh

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 37

## ***7. What do you see as threats to the TN River system and TVA reservoirs?***

Pollution and mismanagement.

Increasing withdrawals threaten flows needed to sustain healthy ecological communities (particularly proposed impoundments on tributary streams). Non-point source pollution from



agriculture, forestry, and development threatens water quality in the mainstem and numerous tributary streams.

Lack of TVA enforcement authority when someone does something illegal.

Pollution, overmanagement of resources that should be public domain. Recreation can bring much more than power needs in \$\$\$\$ Existing installations can be made more efficient. Acid rain is a major threat and has already done noticeable damage.

Conflicting demands for water, and water pollution from non-point sources.

Setting up the wrong priorities.

Over development, non-point and point run-off and discharges, air deposition, loss of public lands

If they are going to come in and bomb us like they just did. The environmentalists are a big threat. The environmentalists are gearing us toward control by entities that we don't want to have control.

Commercial controls

Population growth and development

Non-point source pollution from development, agriculture, and stormwater runoff

Threat of water being used for non-valley USES. I.E. GOING ELSEWHERE loss OF TVA land to non-public purposes. Less emphasis on former appropriated funded programs.

The closing of any lock vitally threatens the River system.

Lax environmental regulations. Lack of total honesty on the part of TVA, or at least the appearance thereof. The tendency of TVA to play "lip service" to the public -- for example, taking public comment and still doing as it pleases.

Political intervention from various interests, including TRDA, to pressure TVA to give up land and to support development schemes where the public is not adequately informed. Also, lack of broad grassroots contacts and networking by TVA organization. Lack of good planning and analysis by TVA puts the agency at risk to defend its policies

Bad management of the available water during the summer months.

Request for water supply from surrounding areas, over development of shorelines, & poor water quality. The transfer of the management of the river system to the CORP would also be detrimental to the system and the Valley.

Uncontrolled shoreline development and overcrowding on the river (more and more boaters).

Tree huggers

1. No longer looking at the river system in an "integrated" manner.
2. Continued increases in population in the valley.
3. Increased demands on the river system.

Lack of rain - extreme drought conditions  
Encroachment and illegal activities by individuals

TVA management, high lake levels late into summer

Dewater sections of the TN River Water shed, have done irreparable damage to the rivers of TN and surrounding states

Water transfer between watershed,

Destruction of wetlands

Agricultural and industrial pollution

TVA mismanagement of the reservoirs with pool levels kept too high, too long at the expense of downstream recreation. TVA's priority of increasing pool level durations threatens all economic growth of the downstream community.

I do not think that TVA should become a commercial enterprise. TVA needs to remain a government project. However, if the fiscal management of TVA continues as it is now, I don't see how TVA can avoid going bankrupt. I am personally retired from a profession in which I worked for 35 years and have never received a bonus for doing a good job. I do not understand the logic of paying an administrator a bonus for doing what he / she was employed to do in the first place. Look where it has gotten the post office.

Pollution. The pollution in the SE is simply unacceptable with many of these systems not meeting bacteriological standards. TVA has the ability to and the political influence to make a difference in the quality of our water and should take a very active role in insisting upon cleaner water. This would also necessitate TVA cleaning up it's own act, by spending the money to upgrade the coal plants or by shutting them down. By the way - nuclear is a great power source and I'm glad TVA has some nuclear power plants.

The health of the river system due to impacts from new economic development projects

Pollution, littering, and taking the reservoirs for granted. We should also remember that the first priority of river management should be flood control.

Non-point source pollution through agricultural run-off, destruction of riparian zones, sedimentation due to construction of roads and buildings.

1. Overdevelopment along/near lakefront.
2. Pollution (including runoff/silting).
3. Congestion (recreational boating, especially jet skis).
4. Degradation/erosion of shoreline, largely due to number 3 above.

Ecological concerns which come with increased demands on the system.

Coal Plants, Mining Companies, and Erosion

Economic development

No control over storm and sediment run off

Degradation of water quality

Loss of habitat

Failure of TVA to comply with environmental regulations, such as NEPA

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 33

## **8. What do you like about how TVA manages the TN River system & reservoirs?**

I like the recreational opportunities that the system provides that would not otherwise exist. i.e., whitewater releases on the Ocoee in the middle of summer.

Flood Control.

In the Knoxville area I am impressed with the safe water level management during high rain and seasonal flooding.

Provides reasonable electrical cost.

As far as I know they are doing a good job, except the water quality in Louisiana is pretty bad I've heard (everything dumps there).

It wouldn't be a bad idea to engineer filters to collect valuable resources from the water as it goes through a dam (and also cleaning the water as you go).

Flood control, power generation is cheap and clean, publishing times of water release for boating and recreation

Balancing competing uses. Need to keep current balance.

I am extremely supportive of TVA's watershed teams that are extremely devoted to ensuring protection of what is left of our river system.

Last summer, TVA had an email list that they published a skeleton release schedule for the Hiwassee. That was great and I really felt that TVA was finally working with the downstream interests.

The use of computer management systems to predict water inputs to reservoirs and to manage the electric grid. Maintenance of forest and wildlife areas, although shrinking too much; Working with state and county agencies for parks and wildlife areas, maintenance of locks and navigation aids, even though not widely appreciated

TVA has been working with the people to fix problems in their management of water.

TVA tries to manage all the various demands upon the system. All 6 demands are important to TVA. Development is not favored over protecting the environment.

Flood control. TVA involvement in shoreline development.

Use of public input

Everything.

Really don't know enough about current management practices to comment. I do know that you have a very capable and talented staff.

Nothing

Scheduled whitewater releases on the Ocoee,

Flood control

Nothing

At last, a positive question ! Power production-- good, reliable power at a reasonable rate. Flood control-- a necessity in the Tennessee River Valley Recreation-- good fishing & boating ( except the Tellico Dam ruined the trout fishing.)

Accessibility, availability of information, quality of boat access facilities

TVA is the largest entity of it's kind and it was created by Congress. It has a public mandate to serve the public. These are extremely positive aspects. Because of its size it can truly manage a river system and make major positive environmental, water quality and so forth impacts.

In the past TVA has made a sincere effort to protected the environment and preserve public land. The river system is the heart of the valley and needs continued protection. What I've liked most about how TVA manages the river system is at the greatest risk ever with the new TVA Board.

The professionalism of the River System personnel. They always are ready to answer questions and provide explanations of policy.

Integrated approach under non-profit agency local management. Federal corporation status.

Overall, they do a fairly good job...much better than a few years ago when they were in dam-building mode.

Through the meetings such as this, as well as TVA's web site, there is a great deal of information available to the public.

That it gives the public a chance to be heard for water management.

Ability to control the system and reservoir which has protected us from extreme flooding.

I respect the how TVA personnel are able to manage flood control.

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 30

### ***9. Which public benefit do you believe is TVA's highest mgmt. priority?***

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Electricity Production	13
2. Flood Control	11
3. Protecting the Natural Environment	8
4. Providing Recreation	4
5. Water Supply	0
6. Commercial Navigation	0

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 37

**10. What public benefits are NOT on the list above, but should be?**

Recreation between the lakes. I fear that this process will lump all recreation into one area that will be dominated by power boating on the lakes, there are other recreational opportunities that require different management plans that are important as well.

Overall public good.

You covered them.

None

Protect biodiversity and public lands

They used to collect Nitrogen out of the air for fertilizer.

Divide recreation into lake recreation and whitewater recreation

Planning for growth

Biodiversity

Maintain smooth navigation on the TN River waterways

Downstream recreation -- TVA uses lots of the pictures of flyfishing and whitewater recreation but seems to cater their recreation issues to lake recreation.

Land use planning and management  
Mapping, analysis and other public information services  
Assisting state and local governments  
International contacts and advising

Tailwater fisheries.

OK as is.

None.

The impact TVA could have on a local economy, recreation, downstream waterflow

Tourism is an important industry in TN and should be a higher priority, tourism will be a growing industry in TN, and a source of economic development in the state of TN

Downstream whitewater and fishing recreation

If protecting the Natural Environment includes fighting pollution then this is one.  
Providing jobs for local citizens.

Saving the natural areas for the future generations

Benchmark public power and integrated river management agency

Can't think of any.

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 22

**11. Which public benefit SHOULD BE the highest mgmt. priority for TVA?**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Protecting the Natural Environment	12
2. Flood Control	11
3. Electricity Production	6
4. Providing Recreation	5
5. Water Supply	1
6. Commercial Navigation	0

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 37

**12. Which public benefit should be the SECOND HIGHEST mgmt. priority?**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Flood Control	11
2. Protecting the Natural Environment	8
3. Providing Recreation	6
4. Water Supply	6
5. Electricity Production	3
6. Commercial Navigation	1

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 36

**13. Which public benefit should be the LOWEST mgmt. priority?**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Providing Recreation	12
2. Commercial Navigation	10
3. Electricity Production	8
4. Water Supply	3
5. Protecting the Natural Environment	1
6. Flood Control	1

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 37

**14. Likelihood that population in your area will grow considerably?**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Very Likely	26
2. Somewhat Likely	5
3. Neutral	2

4. Somewhat Unlikely	2
5. Very Unlikely	0

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 35

**15. Desirability of population in your area growing considerably?**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Undesirable	10
2. Very Undesirable	9
3. Desirable	7
4. Neutral	7
5. Very Desirable	3

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 37

**16. Likelihood that growth will be in cities; undeveloped areas unchanged?**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Very Unlikely	19
2. Somewhat Unlikely	9
3. Very Likely	3
4. Somewhat Likely	2
5. Neutral	2

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 36

**17. Desirability that growth will be in cities; undeveloped areas unchanged?**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Very Desirable	15
2. Desirable	9
3. Neutral	5
4. Undesirable	4
5. Very Undesirable	3

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 36

**18. What is the likelihood that your area will have more jobs?**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
------------------------	-------

1. Somewhat Likely	18
2. Very Likely	7
3. Somewhat Unlikely	7
4. Neutral	3
5. Very Unlikely	2

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 37

**19. What is the desirability of your area having more jobs?**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Desirable	14
2. Very Desirable	13
3. Neutral	7
4. Undesirable	2
5. Very Undesirable	0

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 36

**20. Likelihood there will be stronger regulations to protect the environment?**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Somewhat Likely	13
2. Very Likely	11
3. Very Unlikely	5
4. Somewhat Unlikely	4
5. Neutral	3

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 37

**21. Desirability of stronger regulations to protect the environment?**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Very Desirable	21
2. Desirable	6
3. Neutral	5
4. Very Undesirable	2
5. Undesirable	1

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 36



**22. Pick 6 items that represent the MOST important value of the TVA system?**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Clean Water	26
2. Flood Control	24
3. Wildlife and Fish Habitat Enhancement	22
4. Water-based Recreation	18
5. Affordable Electricity	16
6. Public Land Conservation	16
7. Drinking Water Supply	15
8. Scenic Beauty	14
9. Shoreline Erosion Control	13
10. Environmental Research	11
11. Campgrounds and Green Space	10
12. Planning for Future Growth	9
13. Dam Safety	7
14. Economic Development	7
15. Commercial Waterway For Shipping Cargo	6
16. Protection of Historical Artifacts	3
17. Shoreland Development	1

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 39

**23. Pick 6 items that represent the LEAST important value of the TVA system?**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Shoreland Development	29
2. Commercial Waterway For Shipping Cargo	23
3. Economic Development	18
4. Protection of Historical Artifacts	18
5. Affordable Electricity	15
6. Planning for Future Growth	14
7. Environmental Research	12
8. Campgrounds and Green Space	11
9. Public Land Conservation	10
10. Shoreline Erosion Control	8
11. Dam Safety	7
12. Water-based Recreation	7
13. Drinking Water Supply	6
14. Scenic Beauty	5
15. Wildlife and Fish Habitat Enhancement	3
16. Clean Water	0
17. Flood Control	0

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 36

**24. Please enter the county or counties each of you live in.**

Knox county TN

Knox

Knox

Loudon county

Knox, blount

Knox

Knox Co. TN

Loudon

Knox

Blount

Blount

Knox County

Anderson

KNOX

Knox County

City of Knoxville

Polk County

Blount County

Loudon

Knox

McMinn, and Meigs

Loudon

Loudon

Sullivan and Hawkins

Bradley

Fentress

Polk County Ten.

Loudon County

Knox

Knox

Blount

Knox County - Melton Hill reservoir  
Knox  
Knox

Loudon

ROANE COUNTY

Knox  
Knox, Roane, Loudon area

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 37

***25. Please list your ZIP CODE(S) (you do not have to enter your addresses)***

37774  
37919  
37918  
37918  
37772  
37923  
37919  
37920  
37774  
37901  
37802  
37737  
37938  
37828  
37914  
37369  
37801  
37771  
37922  
37303, 37309  
37771  
37772  
37642  
37663  
37323  
38565  
37361  
37774  
37923  
37909  
37737  
37932  
37918  
37917  
37771  
37880  
37920

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 36

**26. Which State(s) do you (or each of you) live in?**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Tennessee	35
2. Virginia	1
3. Other	1
4. Alabama	0
5. Georgia	0
6. Kentucky	0
7. Mississippi	0
8. North Carolina	0

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 36

**27. I believe TVA will consider my input in this planning process?**

True: 70.8%

False: 29.2%

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 24